

Message Text

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17

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ROME

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 210416

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: OGEN, IT

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REPLY TO CONGRATULATIONS FROM
PRESIDENT LEONE

1. THE EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO DELIVER THE FOLLOWING
MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT LEONE:

QUOTE: DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: YOUR THOUGHTFUL AND HEARTENING
MESSAGE ON MY ASSUMPTION OF OFFICE AS PRESIDENT OF THE
UNITED STATES IS DEEPLY APPRECIATED. YOU MAY BE ASSURED
THAT ALL THE RESOURCES OF THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT WILL
CONTINUE TO BE DIRECTED TOWARD OUR COMMON GOAL OF A TRUE
AND LASTING PEACE FOR ALL MANKIND. SINCERELY, GERALD R.
FORD. UNQUOTE

2. PRESIDENT FORD, ON HIS ASSUMPTION OF THE PRESIDENCY,
RECEIVED THE FOLLOWING CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE FROM
PRESIDENT LEONE:

QUOTE: IN THE MOMENT IN WHICH YOU ASSUME THE SUPREME
RESPONSIBILITY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA I SEND YOU
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MY WARM GREETINGS TOGETHER WITH MY FERVENT WISHES, AS WELL

AS THOSE OF THE ITALIAN PEOPLE, FOR THE SUCCESS OF YOUR GREAT MISSION. ITALY, WHICH IS LINKED TO THE AMERICAN NATION BY MANY OLD AND SOLID TIES OF FRIENDSHIP AND BY A COMMON BELIEF IN THE IDEALS OF LIBERTY AND OF JUSTICE,

FOLLOWS WITH HOPE AND SYMPATHY THE WORK WHICH THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA IS RESPONSIBLY CARRYING OUT FOR THE SAFEGUARDING OF PEACE IN THE WORLD AND FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE MOST JUST RELATIONS AMONG PEOPLES. IN SUCH WORK, ITALY IS READY TO CONTRIBUTE, ON A BILATERAL LEVEL, WITHIN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY, AS A MEMBER OF THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE, OR AS A MEMBER OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND OF THE MOST IMPORTANT INTERNATIONAL BODIES. IN THE CERTAINTY THAT THE MISSION WHICH YOU ARE INITIATING TODAY WILL EFFECTIVELY REINFORCE THE COLLABORATION BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES, FRIENDS AND ALLIES, I WISH TO REPEAT, MR. PRESIDENT, MY WARMEST CONGRATULATIONS. GIOVANNI LEONE
UNQUOTE

3. FYI. NEITHER THE DEPARTMENT NOR THE WHITE HOUSE PLANS TO RELEASE THE TEXT OF REPLY, BUT THERE IS NO OBJECTION TO ITS RELEASE BY THE RECIPIENT. INGERSOLL

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